



News Release

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Governor, Virginia Women's Commission break ground on Phase One of Women's Monument, *Voices from the Garden*

~ Capitol Square monument is first of its kind in the nation ~

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Terry McAuliffe helped the Virginia Women's Commission break ground today on the first phase of the Virginia Women's Monument, *Voices from the Garden*.

Voices from the Garden is the first monument of its kind on the grounds of a state Capitol, recognizing the contributions of women across four centuries. The first phase of the monument is known as the Memorial Plaza.

"Today is a wonderful day in the Commonwealth, when we can come together to celebrate the vital role women have played throughout Virginia's rich history," **Governor McAuliffe** said at the event, surrounded by women from the military and law enforcement. "We're also celebrating the fact that Virginia is on the forefront of giving women the recognition they deserve. Virginia is the first state to memorialize 400 years' worth of women's individual and collective accomplishments on its Capitol grounds."

Mary Margaret Whipple, Co-Chair of the Virginia Women's Commission, added: "We've been blessed with some wonderful partners as we work to raise money for the monument, including the Virginia Capitol Foundation and the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution, which has made this monument a legacy project. This monument, coupled with the completion of the Virginia Indian Tribute, will help complete story of Virginia on Capitol Square."

The monument will be an oval-shaped plaza that contains 12 bronze statues depicting significant women in Virginia's history. Surrounding the plaza will be a glass Wall of Honor containing the names of several hundred additional women of note whose collective contributions have made

Virginia what it is today. The monument will be augmented by a mobile app and an online portal that will contain the stories of the featured women.

The monument is intended to serve as a reminder of the vital role that women have played in public and private life, and as inspiration to future generations of Virginians. It is located in the northwest portion of Capitol Square near the Washington Equestrian Monument.

For more information, visit womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov.

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